

MEETING OF  
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, April 16, 2014, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr., Secretary	Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
Peter Martin	Robert Emerson

Absent: L. Allen Messick, Jr., and Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Chief of Planning and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Kathi Spangler, and Cathy Mesick.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, and Mr. Jake McPherson representing Ducks Unlimited.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

**I. Current Situation Report:**

Scott Blaier informed the Board that we have a total of 1,225 farms in preservation districts totaling 167,854 acres, with a total of 798 farms under agricultural easements totaling 115,315 acres at a cost of \$207,221,503. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 34 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,582 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. There are 300 properties eligible for PDR Round 19, totaling 32,641 acres, with an estimated value of \$134,740,000.

Austin Short informed the Board that there are 12 properties that have not settled from PDR 17, due to a combination of lack of Federal operating funds for administrative costs as well as some issues with surveys and mortgage subordinations. If Delaware's NRCS office does not receive its FRPP operating funds soon then it could delay Round 18 settlements. Michael Parkowski said that the Congressional Delegation may need to become involved if the lack of Federal funding continues.

**II. Young Farmers Report**

Austin Short informed the Board that the one remaining loan from Round 3 (Bonniwell) has settled, so Round 3 is complete. There are 4 loans from Round 4 to be settled. One of these four loans, Kauffman has a competitive appraisal to be considered by the Board in Executive Session at this meeting.

**III. Monitoring Report:**

Milton Melendez informed the Board that there would be no monitoring report for today's meeting as he is still processing the information on the Federal parcels that have been visited.

Mr. Emerson asked about a contingent property that was approved at the March 2014 meeting, wanting to know about the access to the property since it appeared land locked. Mr. Parkowski explained that the Foundation does not consider access when reviewing properties. Mr. Short added that the property adjoined another parcel already owned by the farmer who was purchasing the property in question; therefore, the parcel would not be land locked when combined with the other property.

**IV. District Eligibility:**

1. Jerry C. Dukes District, ID#S-14-03-275. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility the Jerry C. Dukes District, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

**V. Expansion Eligibility and Final Approval:**

1. Kaye Road Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, ID#S-13-12-0160O. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Kaye Road Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Culver Farm Expansion of the Chipman Farms District, ID#S-13-12-080O. After discussion, **Lisa Embert moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Culver Farm Expansion of the Chipman Farms District, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Petersen Farm Expansion of the Wild & Free District, ID#S-14-01-218C. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Petersen Farm Expansion of the Wild & Free District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
4. Segars Expansion of the Mabrey Farms District, ID#K-13-12-223A. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Segars Expansion of the Mabrey Farms District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**
5. Failing 1 Expansion of the Whitby Farms L.P. District, ID#K-13-12-067R. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Failing 1 Expansion of the Whitby Farms L.P. District, seconded by Lisa Embert. Motion unanimously approved.**
6. Failing 2 Expansion of the Whitby Farms L.P. District, ID#K-13-12-067S. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Failing 2 Expansion of the Whitby Farms L.P. District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
7. Bendelewski West Expansion of the Irvan Alexander District, ID#K-13-12-252C. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Bendelewski West Expansion of the Irvan Alexander District, seconded by Chip Narvel. Motion unanimously approved.**

**VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:**

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above District and Expansions.

**VII. Public Comments:**

Mr. Jake McPherson of Ducks Unlimited informed the Foundation that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved the NAWCA grant that he submitted last year. The Foundation will receive over \$500,000 from the grant to assist with purchasing easements on properties with significant wetlands. The grant also includes funding for federal appraisals of the properties. Austin Short informed the Board that this funding would be used for properties in PDR 18 and possibly PDR 19. Mr. McPherson was commended for the work he and Ducks Unlimited did to obtain this grant. Mr. McPherson also provided brochures about the NAWCA program.

**VIII. Minutes:**

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the March 19, 2014 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the March minutes, seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

**IX. Financial Highlights:**

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of March 31, 2014, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of March 31, 2014, \$59,220.36 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$23.87, and license plates income was \$455.00. Expenditures for the month of March totaled \$43,773.00. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept the March financial statement as presented, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

**X. Executive Session:**

It was indicated by Mr. Austin Short that there was need for an Executive Session to review an alternative appraisal for a Young Farmer Loan application.

**Ed Kee moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**  
The Executive Session started at 9:08 a.m.

Executive Session ended at 9:20 a.m. **Robert Emerson moved to go out of the Executive Session, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

**XI. Young Farmers Loan Round 4 - Alternative Appraisal:**

Discussion centered on the alternative appraisal for Mr. Kauffman's Young Farmers Loan application. After discussion, **Chip Narvel moved to accept an amount of \$192,596.00 as the appraisal amount which is one half of the difference between our revised appraisal and the alternative appraisal provided on behalf of Mr. Kauffman. Motion seconded by Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

**XII. Other Business:**

Austin Short distributed comments from Mr. Dave Carter concerning the Port Penn Project.

Michael Parkowski informed the Board that permanent funding for the Forestland Preservation program was a recommendation of the State Wetlands Committee.

**XIII. Adjournment**

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on May 21, 2014 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert F. Garey  
Chairman